Ghadar Centennial Celebration

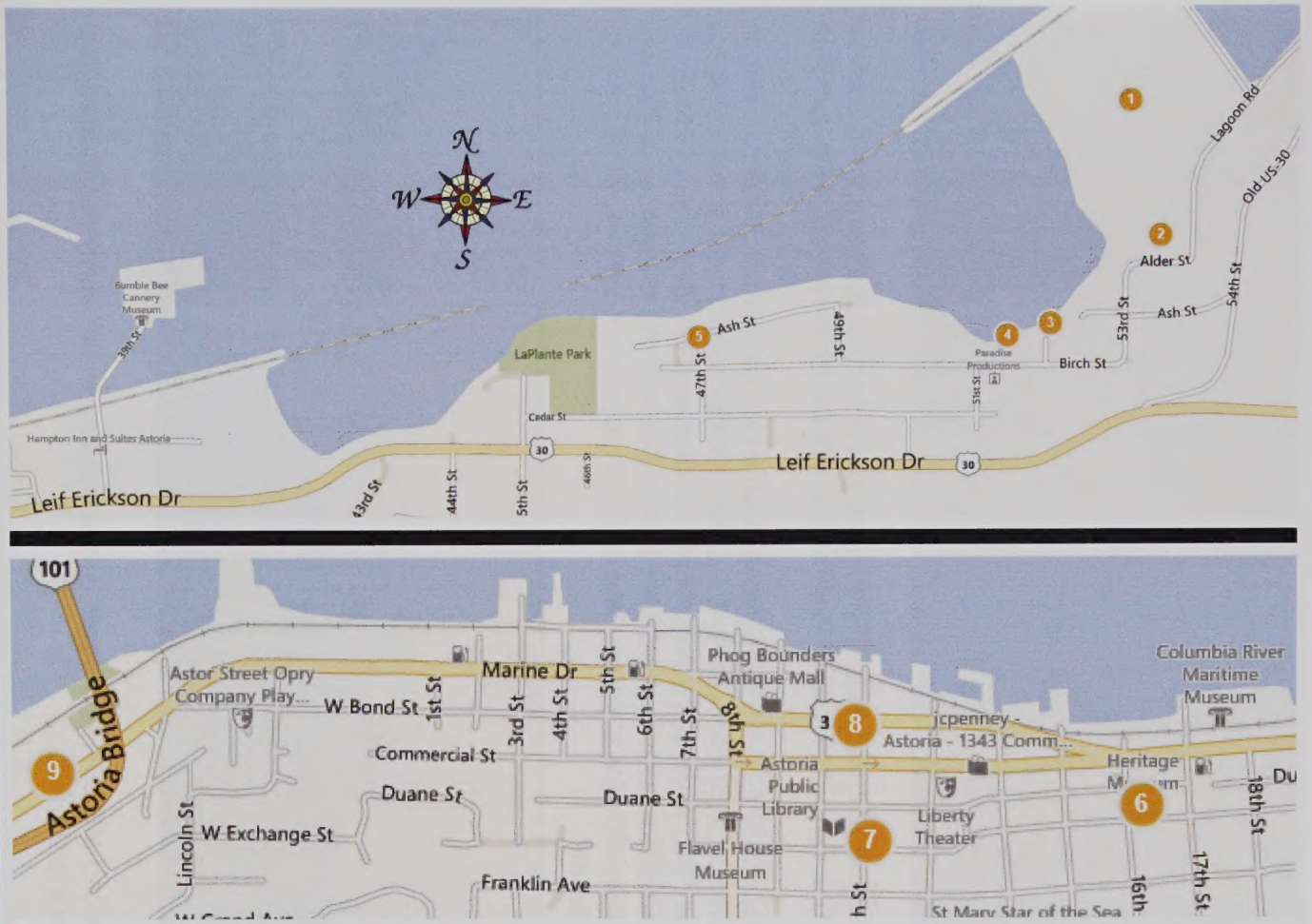
Selected Locations

Ghadar Party Centennial Celebration

During the planning of this Celebration many people inquired about the location of the homes that many of the Indian immigrants had lived in and of the Hammond Lumber Company at which most, if not all, had worked at in 1913. While all of these structures no longer exist, there is still a strong desire among many to visit the former locations in order to understand better the surroundings and community that they had experienced.

We have compiled this brief guide of selected locations to assist you on your journey of discovery.

We suggest that you begin the tour at location #1 on the map which is located at the eastern end of Astoria in an area known as Alderbrook. You will enter this area at 45th Street.



1. Hammond Lumber Company mill
2. Hammond Lumber Company boarding or bunk house
3. Worker housing for the Hammond Lumber Company
4. Worker housing for the Hammond Lumber Company were many Indian immigrants lived
5. Kar Dhillon's home
6. Astoria City Hall
7. Rosenberg Hall
8. British Vice-Consulate
9. Finnish Socialist Hall

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1. Indian immigrants, largely from the Punjab, found work at the Hammond Lumber Company mill, formerly located north of Alder Street at the foot of 53rd and 54th Streets.
   Records from 1910 list a total of seventy-four men, described as "Hindus", living in the Astoria area. Sixty-nine were listed as living at the Hammond Lumber Company in small huts. Two of the sixty-nine people were listed as residing at 53rd Street.
   Five additional Indian immigrants lived at 1661 Duane in Ward 3 of Astoria. This was the north side of Duane between 34th and 35th streets, one block west of present-day Astor School.

2. The Hammond Mill boarding house (white building to the right) was located near the entrance to the mill.

3. Additional housing for workers were located on the north side of Front Street [no longer exists] between 53rd and 54th. The boarding house from #2 was just to the left of these houses.
4. Houses listed in the 1917–1918 Astoria City directory numbered from 2552–2572 Birch Street were located between 51st and 52nd Streets on the north side of Birch.
5. Kar Dhillon's family lived near 4678 Ash Street, present address, about 47th and the waterfront. See the Spring 1995 issue of ***Cumtux*** for more information.

6. The Astoria City Hall at 16th & Exchange was where a number of East Indians were arrested "for suspicion" or for being disorderly, etc. Police court was held here and the city Jail cells were in the basement. This building is now the Heritage Museum.

GREAT HANDICAP
Wrestling Match
TUESDAY EVENING SEPT. 17
Rosenberg Hall
Nels Jepson Of Astoria VS. H. Basanta Singh Hindu Middleweight Champion of the Pacific Coast
Nels Jepson agrees to throw this undefeated Hindu Champion twice in one hour and fifteen minutes.
GOOD BOXING PRELIMINARIES
Starting at 8:15
ADMISSION: RINGSIDE, $1.50; GENERAL, $1.00 AND 75c

7. Rosenberg Hall was on the northeast corner of 11th & Exchange Streets – wrestling matches were fought there. The building was owned by Charles C. C. Rosenberg, a physician born in Finland.

8. The British Vice Consul E. M. Cherry was located on the south side of Bond near 11th Street. [between 10th and 11th] Protective of British interests, occasionally detaining or expelling East Indian activists. Cherry was the son of Peter Cherry who was born in India of English parentage.

9. The Finnish Socialist Hall (cover page) was located where the Dunes Motel is now, at 288 W. Marine Drive. In 1913, it was the site of the founding conference of Ghadar.

Not located on the map.

The Cremation of Rauma Singh

In November of 1906 the Daily Budget touted the "first Hindoo funeral that was ever solemnized in the United States: the cremation of Rauma Singh, an East Indian who died of consumption in St. Mary's Hospital. His death initially excited little attention; on page six, a three-line notice identified him rather contemptuously as a county charge "whose name is credited to be Sunday Sing." But when three countrymen petitioned the coroner and British consulate for leave to build a pyre, the paper followed the novel event with morbid fascination and even got the deceased's name right.

The Hindustani rite took place in a secluded spot near Williamsport [an area south of Astoria, near Youngs River]. The cordwood pyre measured three feet wide, seven feet long and two feet high. One of the Indians poured a dipper full of butter on the flames, chanting in Sandskrit; but this show disappointed the attending curiosity-seekers. "The ceremony was not as spectacular as would be expected and lacked the gruesomeness that was anticipated," read the front page story, noting that the dipper full of butter was merely for purposes of sanitation.

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CUMTUX: Chinook jargon: "To Know…to inform"